Affairs has been regularly urging the State Governments to strengthen the State Police by filling up existing vacancies and enhancing their strength to improve the police-population ratio in the States. Assistance is also being provided to them under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces for upgradation and modernisation of the State Police Forces with reference to equipments, weaponry, infrastructure, training, etc. Raising of India Reserve Battalions has also been liberally sanctioned, particularly in the case of States affected by naxalite activities.

Terrorist camps near Hubli

* 103. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

. (a) whether it is a fact that terrorist camps have been unearthed in the forests near Hubli and the Karnataka Police has arrested three terrorists;

(b) whether Government has identified terrorist organization suppoting this terrorist group; and

(c) the plan of action of Government to control the spread of terrorist organizations throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) According to information provided by the Government of Karnataka, no terrorist camps have been unearthed in the forests near Hubli in Karnataka. Inquiries and investigations made after the arrest of two persons for suspected two-wheeler theft revealed their plans to cause serial blasts and other offences u.;der the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and have led to the arrest of five more persons. The investigations are continuing.

(c) The action taken by the Government to counter terrorism and check the activities of terrorist groups include intensive patrolling and surveillance on the borders including border fencing/floodlighting, and strengthening coastal security arrangements, to check infiltration; deployment of Central Forces to aid the State Police Forces in areas prone to terrorist violence; heightened vigil and security arrangements in and around vital installations; strengthening of arrangements and mechanism for intelligence gathering particularly at the cutting edge level; regular sharing of intelligence with the State Government and among the agencies; assistance for raising of India Reserve Battalions in the States; upgradation and modernization of equipments and weapons, etc. of the Central Para-Military forces; and action at the international level, through bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation in the sphere of counter terrorism.

Special law to curb boot-legging and property grabbing

***104. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:**
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government is considering to promulgate a special law to curb the unlawful activities of boot-leggers and property grabbers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAOGAVIT): No, Sir. At present, the Union Government does not have any proposal to promulgate a special law relating to boot-legging and property grabbing.

Intoxicating liquors are specifically covered by Entry 8 of List (State List) of Schedule 7 to the Constitution of India and the States have the exclusive power to regulate their production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale. Similarly, "Land, that is to say, right in or over land, land tenures including the relation of landlord and tenant, and the collection of rents; transfer and alienation of agricultural land; land improvement and agricultural loans; colonization" are specifically covered by Entry 18 of List II (State List) of Schedule 7 to the Constitution and the States have the exclusive jurisdiction over the subject.

The crimes of boot-legging and property grabbing are dealt with the State Governments as per their special and local laws coupled with the provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) such as, sections 403,404 relating to dishonest misappropriation of movable property, 486 and 487 relating to selling goods marked with counterfeit property mark and making a false mark upon any receptacle containing goods as also the provisions of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) such as sections 105 A to 105K relating to attachment and forfeiture of movable/ immovable/tangible/intangible property. While the State Governments are primarily responsible for prevention, detection registration and investigation of such crimes and for prosecuting the criminals through the machinery of their law enforcement agencies, the Central Government supports the State Governments in their endeavours to investigate crimes to bring about a crime free society. The Union Government, however, attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention of crime and therefore, has been advising the State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time to give more focused attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and take such measure as are necessary for prevention and control of crime.

Gap between requirement of officers and their recruitment in armed forces

*105. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large gap has arisen between the requirement of officers in the three wings of our Defence Forces and the numbers recruited over the last several years;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) the steps being contemplated, if any, by Government to address the issue;

(d) whether it is a fact that recruitment of jawans in the Defence Forces has been unsatisfactory in terms of number of enthusiasts opting for the career, especially in the regions which have been traditionally attracting young generations to the forces;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps contemplated to improve it?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (f) There has been a gap between the requirement of officers in the three Services and the number recruited over the lats several years. The details regarding the vacancies of officers and actual intake at the entry level during the last three years is as follows:—